



Friday, August 12

**Nordic Naturals Challenger
Presented by Santa Cruz County Bank**

A USTA Pro Circuit Event
Seascape Sports Club
Aptos, CA

Purse: \$100,000

Surface: Hard- Outdoor

For more information, please contact:

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- *Live Streaming:* <http://www.procircuit.usta.com>
- *Facebook:* <https://www.facebook.com/seascapesportsclubofficial/>
- *Youtube:* <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXAQG1Arf7vw9JR8vMMMePyg>
- *Twitter:* @USTAProCircuit

No. 3 seed Fratangelo Powers Through to Semifinals for the Second Year in a Row

On a cold, cloudy day in Aptos, Seascape Sports Club's center court has just began to heat up as the competitive atmosphere at the Nordic Naturals Challenger presented by Santa Cruz County Bank unfolds and the final rounds come to fruition. On separate halves of the draw, two Americans, out of the original 16 in singles, carved a path to the semifinals. Considering that if either Eric Quigly or Bjorn Fratangelo claim the Championship they will be named the winner of the U.S. Wildcard Challenge and receive direct entry into the U.S. Open main draw, this is crucial.

Eric Quigly, whose Aptos journey began in the qualifying rounds, is one of those Americans. Currently ranked at No. 443 in the world, Quigly played for the University of Kentucky for four years and reached the 2012 NCAA championship final before he turned professional. The Cincinnati native made his first ATP main draw singles appearance last year at the Delray Beach Open. Today, Quigly defeated fellow-American, Raymond Sarmiento 7-5, 6-2.

The other American is No. 3 seed Bjorn Fratangelo. Fratangelo returns to Aptos, reaching the semifinals for the second consecutive year. Last year, the 23-year-old Pittsburgh native earned the most points in the Wild Card Challenge to make his debut at the U.S. Open. In the past year, Fratangelo has made four straight Grand Slam main draw appearances, captured the Savannah Challenger Title and has broken into the ATP top 100. Today, his focus was evident when he eliminated 2010 Aptos Champion, Marinko Matosevic 6-4, 6-2.

The semifinal rounds will start at 11 a.m. on Saturday at Seascape Sports Club.

ABOUT THE USTA PRO CIRCUIT:

With approximately 90 tournaments hosted annually throughout the country and prize money ranging from \$10,000 to \$100,000, the USTA Pro Circuit is the pathway to the US Open and tour-level competition for aspiring tennis players and a frequent battleground for established professionals. The USTA launched its Pro Circuit 37 years ago to provide players with the opportunity to gain professional ranking points, and it has since grown to become the largest developmental tennis circuit in the world, offering nearly \$3 million in prize money. Last year, more than 1,000 men and women from more than 70 countries competed in cities nationwide. **John Isner, Maria Sharapova, Sam Querrey, Sloane Stephens, Kei Nishikori, Victoria Azarenka and Andy Murray** are among today's top stars who began their careers on the USTA Pro Circuit.